

Niagara Falls Illustrated
Summer and Winter

SpC1

F

127

N8

S68

1913

LIBRARY
BROCK UNIVERSITY

201993

Niagara Falls


I l l u s t r a t e d

SUMMER AND
WINTER




A SOUVENIR OF THE

NIAGARA FALLS



Showing Summer and Winter
Views of Niagara Falls and
Their Surroundings.



Published by THE JAMES BAYNE COMPANY
Photographers — Engravers — Printers
GRAND RAPIDS, MICHIGAN, U. S. A.

Souvenirs of the THOUSAND ISLANDS — MONTREAL —
LAKE ST. JOHNS — QUEBEC — ADIRONDACKS — MOUNT
CLEMENS — SAGUENAY RIVER — WATKINS GLENN.

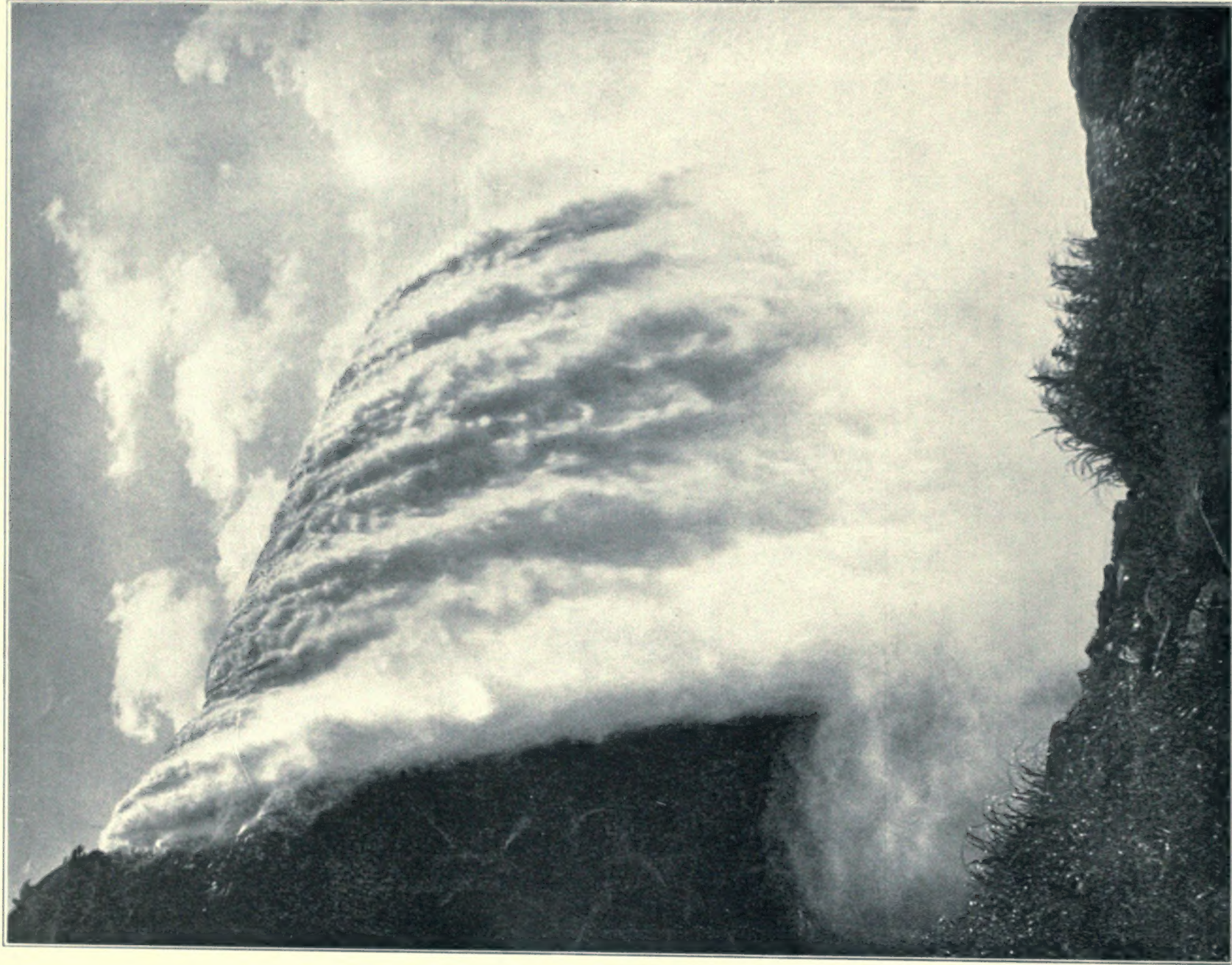
NIAGARA FALLS



Who first discovered Niagara Falls, or what eyes first gazed upon the majesty of its power, and what ears first listened to the thundering of its mighty roar, is an open question, but it is a settled fact that when the river first began to flow many thousand years ago, perhaps before the glacial period, the falls were located where Lewiston now stands. How long it has taken to recede back to its present location is hard to estimate as that depends upon the hardness of the rock through which it has passed. Maps made in recent years show that the recession varies from less than one foot to over two feet in a year. The time is coming when the Falls of Niagara will be obliterated and nothing left but a mighty river connecting the two great lakes. At the present site of the falls the edge of the cataract is formed by hard limestone rock; by the action of the spray and the back current the soft shelly strata below has been hollowed out, forming what is called the Cave of the Winds. This cave is one of the principal attractions, and is entered by thousands of people every year, unconscious of the danger they are exposing themselves to. When this hollowing-out process has extended far enough, the projecting rock is broken off by its own weight and the weight of the great volume of water passing over it and disappears in the abyss below. Large masses of this rock fell in 1818, 1828, 1843, 1847 and 1855. At the same rate of recession it will reach the foot of Grand Island, two miles further up the river, in about 6,000 years. There the river grows broader and deeper, which will very much change the general aspect of the falls. However, that is so far in the future that if the writer ever sees it, it will be through some mediumship between earth and spirit life. The first historic mention of the cataract was by Jacques Cartier, in his description of a voyage made in 1535; again by Samuel Champlain in a map describing a trip West, and published in 1613. Father Hennepin, a French missionary to Canada in 1676, describes its location, and mentions a third falls caused by a great rock situated on what is known as Table Rock, on the north side of the river. The rock is again mentioned by Kalm, a Swedish naturalist, who visited the place in 1750. Since that time the rock has entirely disappeared. Up to a comparatively recent period Goat Island extended for about another half mile northerly in a triangular prolongation. Previous to 1885 all approaches to Niagara Falls, both on the American and Canadian sides, were owned by private individuals, who extorted exorbitant tolls for all privileges enjoyed by tourists. It was impossible for a stranger to get a view of any part of the cataract, the rapids above, or any part of the river below, without submitting to the avaricious demands of those sharks. There was no way of estimating what a visit to Niagara would cost; they had no established price for anything. They endeavored to read their victim, judge from his appearance how much money he was liable to have in his possession, his gullibility, and deal with him accordingly. The writer will never forget his first visit to Niagara Falls in 1866. (He was somewhat younger then and less experienced in the ways of depraved humanity.) Before he got away from them he was thoroughly convinced that he had surely fallen among thieves and robbers and was very thankful to get away with the same clothes he had when he arrived. To think of carrying away any cash was absurd. However, there have been great changes wrought since that time. In 1885 the State of New York purchased 107 acres of land in the immediate vicinity of the falls, comprising all of Goat and other islands; also a strip of land on the main shore extending from the new Suspension Bridge below the falls to Port Day, about two miles above. The appraisers of this property awarded the owners \$1,433,429.24, removed all objectionable buildings, and laid out beautiful drives and walks. The Canadian government soon followed the example of the Americans and purchased an area of 154 acres at an expense of \$436,813.24, and named it Victoria Park. In 1888 it was opened to the public. What nature has done for Niagara has been widely supplemented by the actions of two great nations. Thus by the generosity of the two great commonwealths the public has been given free access to one of the greatest natural curiosities of the world. Every facility has been afforded tourists to see the sights to the best possible advantage and at the least possible expense. If you wish to walk around, there are no restrictions. If you wish to take a carriage the prices are very moderate and are regulated by the State. In fact all charges for services rendered the tourist are under restrictions and very moderate.



The Horse Shoe Falls from the Canadian Side.—The dotted line shows the course and landing place of the barrel containing Mrs. Taylor in her daring, still successful trip over the Falls of Niagara on October 24, 1901. Although Niagara stands unrivalled the world over for features of heroic courage and daring presumptuousness, no one ever attempted to make the trip through the upper rapids and over the falls until Mrs. Taylor accomplished the feat. Many have been the devices invented for navigating the lower rapids and whirlpool, very few of which were successful.



The American Falls.—Extends from the main shore to Luna Island, a distance of 1,100 feet. The fall is 159 feet. Its principal attraction consists in the foamy whiteness into which the torrent is dashed by coming in contact with craggy points of rock on its descent. It is the most easily reached and can be approached the nearest.



View from Prospect Point.—Prospect point is an abrupt point of rock in the State Reservation rising directly above the American Falls and so close that you could easily dip the end of your umbrella or cane in the flood as it tumbles over the brink. This is a favorite resort for the hotel guests on a hot summer day on account of its close proximity and the nearness to which the falls can be approached without danger. Danger has been averted by a beautiful wall of masonry surmounted by an artistic iron rail. The great volume of water so rapidly plunging into the vortex below creates a very cool, moist breeze which is very gratifying after a long ride in the hot dust-laden atmosphere of an ordinary railroad coach.



A General View of the Falls.—Showing the Horse Shoe or Canadian Falls on the right, the American Falls on the left and the little steamer "Maid of the Mist" making her regular trips to within a few feet of the falling water in a dense spray resembling a shower bath.



Luna Island From Goat Island.—Showing the American Falls and a part of the Middle Falls, Prospect Point and one end of the new Steel Arch Foot and Carriage Bridge.



The Whirlpool Rapids.—The two great railroad bridges are for economic reasons placed at the narrowest point of the gorge. Here occurs the great Whirlpool Rapids, caused by the narrowing of the rocky walls, causing a great volume of water to force itself through the narrow space over the steep and rugged bottom, increasing in fierceness until the culmination is reached in the boiling caldron below.



The New Bridge at Green Island.—The new bridge erected by the State of New York under the supervision of E. A. Bond, State Engineer and Surveyor, in the year 1901, connects the main shore with Green Island (formerly Bath Island). A similar bridge built at the same time extends from Green to Goat Island.



The Canadian or Horse Shoe Falls extends from the Canadian Shore to Goat Island, 2,376 feet, height 165 feet. It is estimated that the volume of water which passes over this fall is five times greater than that discharged by the American. It derived its name from its shape so closely resembling that of a horse shoe although it has long since lost the graceful curves of a horse shoe and assumed that of a V. It is claimed that a solid body of water from 20 to 25 feet thick is continually passing over the brink. It is known to be over 60 feet at least. In 1829 the Schooner "Detroit" went over the falls drawing 18 feet of water without meeting any obstructions.



Observation Tower.—Just outside Prospect Park, was recently completed. It is built of steel with a winding stairs extending to the top also two passenger elevators by which tourists are conveyed to the top for a small fee. The top of the tower is 300 feet above the street and 490 feet above the river below the falls. The landscape being very level a grand view of the surrounding country can be had from this tower. The Tower hotel so closely connected with the tower furnishes accommodation for a large number of visitors.



The Cataract House Niagara Falls and the American Rapids Just Above the Falls.—This is one of the oldest and best conducted houses at Niagara Falls. It has sheltered and entertained more nobility than any other hotel in America. Colonel Isaac, of hotel fame, has recently secured a lease of this house for a long term of years and during the last winter has spent a large amount of money in supplying it with all the modern improvements.



A Birdseye View of the American Rapids, Green Island and the Two Bridges Leading to Goat Island.—These bridges are owned by the state and are free to all carriages and pedestrians. Above and below Green Island are numerous small islands. Those above are named respectively Ship and Brig, below are Robisons, Blackbird, Crow and the famous Luna Island. Green Island contains two acres and Goat Island contains six acres, densely covered with heavy timber.



The Bridge to Luna Island in Winter. —As no person ever thinks of going to Niagara Falls without visiting Luna Island, the authorities have gone to great expense in beautifying the island and its approaches. In the distance can be seen the bridge to Goat Island from the main shore, also the village with its extensive hotels on the brink of the rapids, that has furnished shelter for so many thousands from all parts of the globe.



The Rapids Above the Falls.—From the head of Goat Island to the brink of the precipice, a distance of about one half mile, the fall is 55 feet. Upon reaching the head of the island the river breaks into a rapids increasing in velocity from 7 to 30 miles an hour. The mad torrent, rushing on to make its final leap over the dread precipice only a few feet below, is dashed into foaming billows by the huge boulders in the river's bottom, and speeds on until it meets its doom in the seething caldron below.



The Prospect House. Although not the largest is by no means second to the best in point of beauty, luxury and good management. It is owned and managed by Colonel Isaac, who has neither spared money or brains in adding to this hotel every convenience known to the science of modern hotel equipments. How well his efforts have been appreciated by the traveling nobility can be judged by reference to the house register and getting a list of autographs of the great men and women from all countries who have stayed there while visiting nature's wonder. It is open the year around.



An Interior View of the Prospect House Grand Octagonal Dining Room and Reception Room.



The Ice Bound Cataract.— This is a condition that very seldom appears. It can only be produced by a long continued period of extreme cold weather. It will be observed that the whole face of the cataract is completely ice clad, and with its helmet of ice is completely protected for a time from the vulgar gaze of the ever moving mass of humanity. ^a The last time this condition appeared was in 1886 and it may never be seen again.



Falls View Station on the Michigan Central Railroad.—All trains on the Michigan Central Railroad between the east and the west, pause in their flight at this point to give their passengers one of the finest views of the great cataract to be had. From this point the entire ensemble of the falls can be witnessed, but interest centers in their admiration of the grandeur, magnificence and power of the great volume of water unseemingly tumbling into the abyss below.



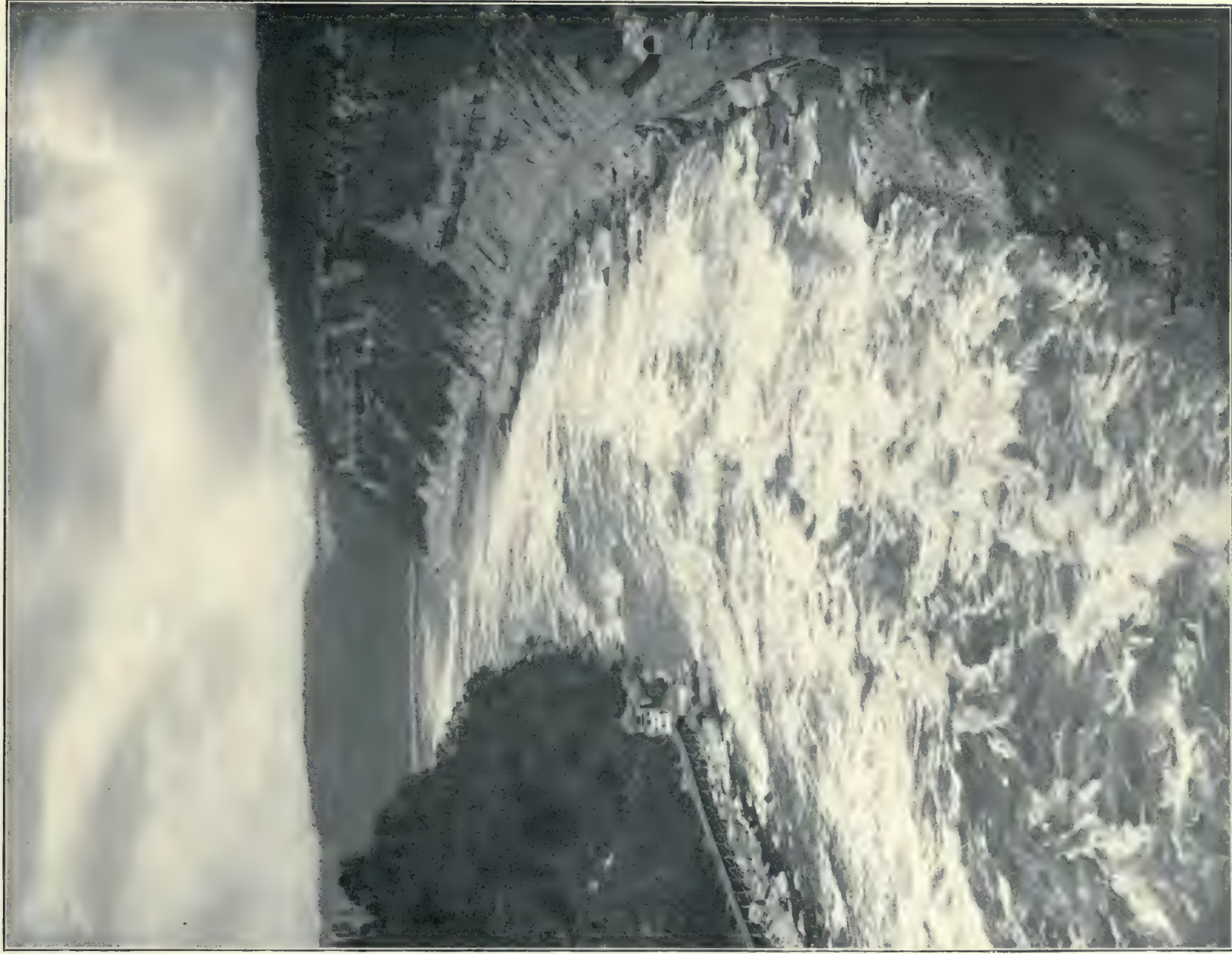
The New Suspension Bridge at Lewiston. Built out of material of the old Suspension Bridge taken down at Suspension Bridge in 1890 by the Grand Trunk Railway Company to make room for their new single arch steel bridge built in the same year. This bridge takes the place of the one blown down in 1865 and is a connecting link between Lewiston and Queenstown, Ont. This view was taken from near the New York Central Railroad and shows the tracks running near the river bank before entering the tunnel just above Lewiston.



Winter Foliage at Niagara Falls.—There is no limit to the variety or beauty of these crystal formations in the vicinity of Niagara Falls in cold weather. The continual spray rising from the falls keeps the foliage saturated with dew in warm weather and in freezing weather coated with crystal formations that in the sunshine is beautiful beyond description.



The Walk Leading to the Cave of the Winds.—The cave is 100 feet high, 100 feet long and about 60 feet wide. It is formed by the action of the water washing away the soft, shelly substratum of rock, leaving the more flinty limestone rock projecting overhead. This cave is a place of continuous tempest caused by the atmospheric pressure produced by the rapidity of so great a body of water falling such a distance, compressing the air into the rock bound cavern. The wind rushes across the floor of the cave from front to rear carrying with it great clouds of spray that would instantly wet the visitor through were it not for the water-proof suit the guide provides him with.



The Lower Whirlpool Rapids Just Before Reaching the Whirlpool. — From the Railroad Bridge, looking north east, showing the Gorge Railroad, running along the edge of the River.



The Ice Mountain and Bridge Across the River Almost Under the Falls.—"The Ice Bridge" is formed by large masses of ice coming over the falls. The ice becomes attached to boulders at the foot of the falls and continually accumulates until it extends from shore to shore and sometimes is claimed 20 feet thick, so that fakirs build booths in rows extending clear across the river for the purpose of selling souvenirs, curiosities, whiskey, etc.



The American Falls and the ever present little steamer "Maid of the Mist" with her precious cargo of human freight wending her way over the troubled waters, apparently trying each time to approach a little nearer the mighty cataract than before, only to be caught in the current and drift back to her starting point. The extreme length of the falls from shore to shore is over three-fourths of a mile.



The New Steel Arch Bridge. Built in 1898 to take the place of the Old Suspension Foot Bridge close to the Falls, extending from Prospect Park on the American side to Victoria Park on the Canadian side, a distance of 1268 feet from bank to bank, and 190 feet above the surface of the water. This is the longest single arch bridge in the world by 302 feet. The width is 49 feet. In the center is a double trolley track, at each side of the trolley an eight foot driveway and outside of that an elevated walk three feet wide for pedestrians.



Luna Island.—A point of rock projecting over the torrent's brink, dividing the American Falls. It has been so undermined by the action of the water that many declare it trembles with the rush and roar of the mighty tempest, and there is without doubt some truth in the statement. At this point one of the most distressing accidents on record occurred. On June 21, 1849, a family from Buffalo, N. Y., were visiting the place, and when about to leave the island, a young man, a guest of the family, playfully picked up a little daughter of his host and approaching the railing exclaimed: "I am going to throw you over." The little child in her struggles to escape, slipped from his arms into the water. The young man, with a frantic shriek, sprang to save her and immediately both disappeared never to be seen again.



A Street View, the Cataract House.



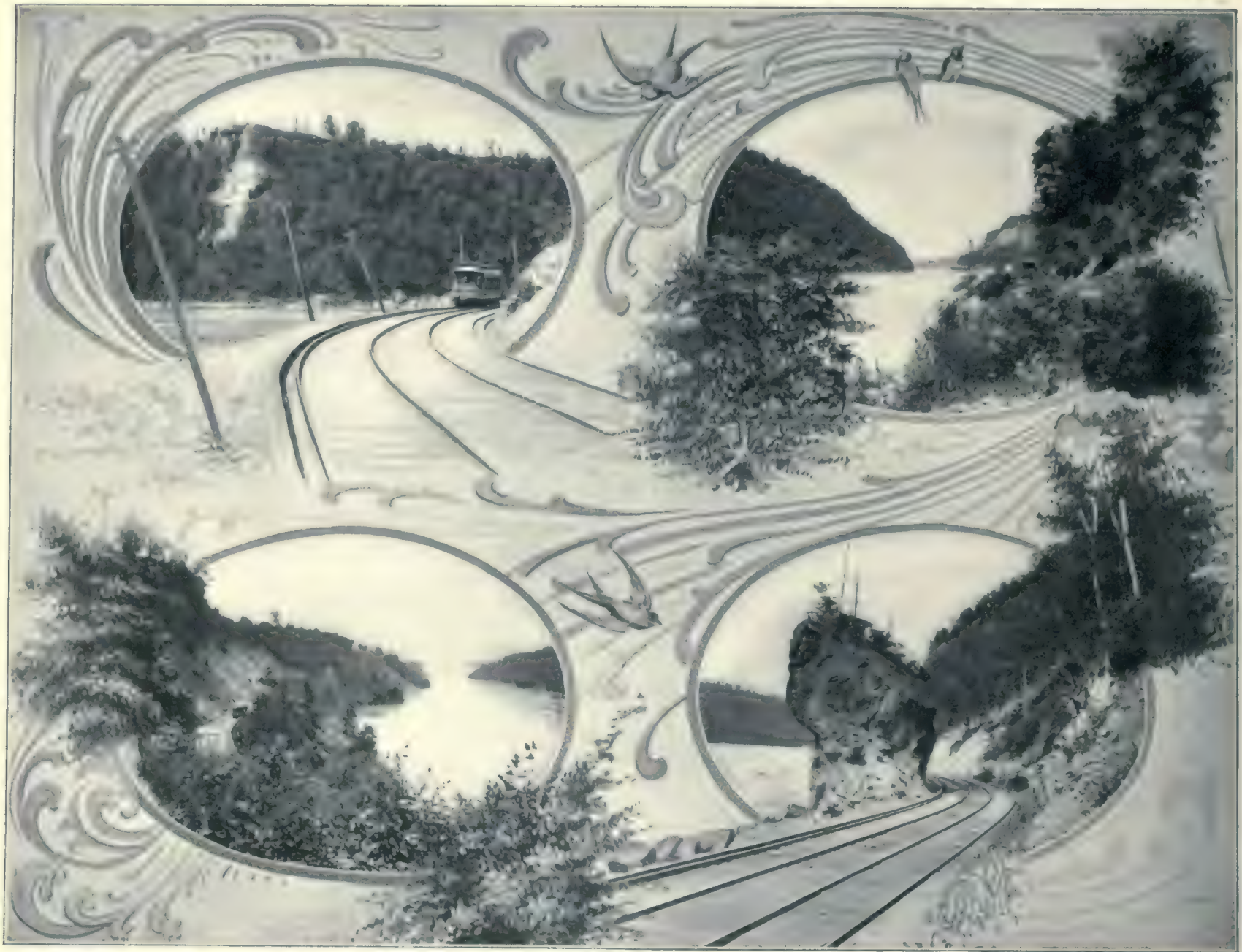
Porch and Interior Views of the Cataract House.



The Power House and the Wheel Pit or excavation in the solid rock, within which the great wheel revolves that transmits the power of Niagara to the great Dynamos that furnishes the current to run the mass of the factories, the street railways and light the City of Niagara Falls; also for lighting the City of Buffalo, running the elevators in her big buildings, her street cars and many of the factories throughout the city; also the trolley lines that run between Buffalo, Niagara Falls and Lewiston and the great Gorge Route.



Interior of Power House.—The feat of harnessing Niagara—at one time thought impossible—is now an accomplished fact. The above view shows the interior of the Power House of the Niagara Falls Hydraulic and Manufacturing Co. This Company has drawn from the mighty Niagara some 50,000 horse power and besides furnishing power for many local factories and mills, supplies electricity for the street railway of Buffalo, more than twenty miles distance.



Gems of Scenery Along the Line of the Great Gorge Railway which enters the Gorge at Niagara Falls and runs the entire length of the river to Lewiston so close to the edge of the water that in many places you can almost dip the end of your cane in the raging torrent as you pass by, affording an unparalleled view of the entire River, the Whirlpool Rapids, the Great Whirlpool and many other exciting views.

SPCL F 127 N8 S68 1913

C. 1



3 9157 00154116 1

Spcl

201993

F

127

N8

S68

1913

BROCK UNIVERSITY
ST. CATHARINES, ONTARIO



LIBRARY

FOR USE IN SPECIAL COLLECTIONS ONLY

